

Tokyo Dismisses Soviet Kidnap Charge

CPYRGHT

From News Dispatches

TOKYO, April 14—

The Japanese Foreign Ministry today dismissed Soviet charges that American intelligence agents had tried to kidnap a Soviet diplomat here, but the diplomat, Georgi Pokrovsky, said the charges were true.

The Japanese said Pokrovsky had been involved in a fight with two Americans, reportedly tourists, at the apartment of a Colombian businessman who lived in the same building as Pokrovsky. The fight occurred on March 17.

Pokrovsky, first secretary at the Russian Embassy here,

would not comment on the brawl, but said, "The facts are the facts. When the people read the Soviet protest note to the United States, they will believe it."

(In Washington, a State Department spokesman said the charges in the Soviet note of Wednesday "are totally false." He said Japanese authorities had reported the "altercation" but had dropped the matter when investigation showed no basis for further action. The spokesman said no American was involved, nor had there been any request by Pokrovsky for political asylum.)

Japanese police sources said the brawl happened when the Colombian was taken ill outside the building where he and Pokrovsky live. Pokrovsky, who knew him, came by and helped him to his apartment.

When he opened the apartment door, Pokrovsky saw two men inside and fled, apparently frightened. The Colombian and the two men—later identified as American tourists—stayed in the apartment for 20 or 30 minutes and then left.

Outside, Pokrovsky and two

or three other Russians jumped them. Reuters quoted the police report as saying: "There was an exchange of blows, but no one was hurt. After hearing both stories, the police decided nothing serious had happened and sent them all home. There was no mention at that time of a kidnapping attempt."

(The Russian note claimed that an American diplomat pretended to have a heart attack and asked Pokrovsky to help him to his apartment in the building, where other Americans tried to seize him.)



Associated Press

GEORGI POKROVSKY

... sticks to story

CPYRGHT